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JAZZ FEST NOTES

DARIO AYALA THE GAZETTE

A deluge during Florence K's set did nothing to dampen her enthusiasm.

FRIDAY:

Volume at L'Astral during **Le Large Ensemble's** set was high, inspiration less so. The guitars worked up a bit of a lather toward the end. The value of multiple drummers is probably still debated. Not by me.

Later, in the same club, we had a far, far softer experience from **Aaron Parks,** a Seattle-born, Brooklyn-based pianist who has recently signed on to Blue Note Records. Youth can imply virtuosity, but Parks proved to be a strictly elementary practitioner.

ARTHUR KAPTAINIS

Jordan Officer began his set on acoustic guitar, demonstrating his blues and country-and-western skills. With only the word "merci" in between pieces, he led his trio through several low-key, seemingly improvised tunes, maintaining a timid stage presence as he focused on his impressive playing.

When Officer ditched his acoustic guitar for an electric, the band really started cooking. While his bandmates had appeared uncomfortable with the subdued country and blues that began the show, here they exploded, effectively turning up the volume of their performances and establishing themselves as competent jazz players.

JAKE SHENKER

Is it my imagination or did **Tony Bennett** get five years younger since he was last at the festival in 2004, while the rest of us kept aging?

Watch What Happens was the opening song. I did. What I saw was a man said to be almost 83 fill Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier of Place des Arts with a voice that might be less supple than it was 40 years ago but still retains its astonishing dynamics and power.

Bennett is one of the last living links to what many consider a golden era of songwriting and interpreting. And it felt like a privilege to be in the room.

BERNARD PERUSSE

In the pouring rain, in between leaping over puddles and dodging dangerous looking pools of mud, I fell upon a giant crowd at the Bell Stage and noticed that everyone was dancing. And I don't mean foot-tapping, hip-swaying motion – I mean arms flailing, jumping up and down, unabashed dancing.

Lynda Thalie, in her gleaming black and gold dress, was singing her sultry blend of Middle Eastern, funk and pop, backed by a multicultural band that included electric guitar, hand drums, a Godin 11-string Glissentar, and an oud, the Arabic lute.

JAKE SHENKER

Still thriving among a slew of younger wannabes, **Sheila Jordan** is no mere throwback: At 80, she's still the original bebop ballad chanteuse and delightfully improvisational scat singer from the '40s, still wearing the mahogany pageboy hairdo of that era. Her two shows at the intimate Upstairs club were triumphs of indelible spirit and real-life philosophy. Madame Jordan hinted at earlier personal troubles, but accented her unbridled optimism. I had never seen her before and I left with a spring in my step (and doo-bops in my head), feeling cleansed and inspired with her no-nonsense approach.

JUAN RODRIGUEZ

At first I thought it was a disco inferno, but no, it was the "Princess of Salsa," Grammy-nominated Puerto Rican/New Yorker **La India,** performing to a brimming Metropolis. This was modern salsa, updated for the clubs, with a few over-the-top torch songs thrown in for good measure.

T'CHA DUNLEVY

You think you know where the band is going, but then you don't. So Buddhist. This is the ever-enigmatic **Wayne Shorter,** at least in the first half of his 94-minute quartet outing at the Théâtre Maisonneuve. When he switched to soprano sax, his playing became more focused and forceful, the music generally more energetic.

IRWIN BLOCK

Nomadic Massive drew the party crowd to the Bell stage. The group is a little all over the place, but its infectious energy is a perfect fit for loose-knit outdoor fun.

T'CHA DUNLEVY

Backed at his Gesù late-nighter by the terrific young Israeli trio **Minsarah,** with whom he enjoyed telepathic communication, **Lee Konitz's** lines strolled crooked and winding roads at a leisurely pace with pithy economy and surprising turns. "Thank you very much – you have great taste," he concluded laconically. A fascinating performance, reflecting he title of his widely heralded album with Minsarah: Deep Lee.

JUAN RODRIGUEZ

At precisely 11 o'clock on Friday night, **Florence K** emerged from the wings of the Scène General Motors dancing and smiling. At precisely 11:01, it began to rain. Not lightly, not delicately, but a total downpour. Out came the umbrellas and ponchos, obscuring the audience's view but never dampening the spirits of the lovely Miss K. She sat at the piano beaming, head cocked over one shoulder, singing in a voice clear and pure with a darling vibrato and an indescribable texture that leaves you feeling warm and fuzzy. Never mind the rain. She didn't.

NATASHA HALL

What a party! The vibe was set from the first drum beat. At midnight, before a packed house at Club Soda, **High Tone** started with a chill, friendly groove that erupted bit by bit into a live drum 'n' bass blow out.

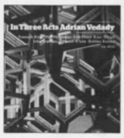
NATASHA HALL

Go to montrealgazette.com/music for the full posts excerpted above.

JAZZ DISC OF THE DAY

Adrian Vedady

In Three Acts
Elephant Records



The first song on Adrian Vedady's In Three Acts, Overture, is the kind of piece that slows your heartbeat and focuses your attention on the music you're hearing. Tenor saxophonist Yannick Rieu, bassist Adrian Vedady and drummer Phil Melanson create a musical space that is deep, wide and warm.

From there, the story unfolds nicely. In Three Acts is taken literally, meaning the record is divided into three different sections with three different groups. The opening saxophone trio gives way to a piano-alto quartet and finally a guitar trio – all composed of some of Montreal's finest.

Vedady, at the helm, keeps a thread through it all. His big, meaty bass sound and keen melodic sense keep the music buoyant and the talent around him flowing.

ADAM KINNER

Adrian Vedady performs at 7 p.m. on the CBC/Radio-Canada stage and at midnight with Dan Thouin, Maxime St-Pierre and Massimo Sansalone at the Savoy room of Metropolis

TODAY'S FORECAST

The Weather Network
Make the right call

Montreal area

Today's high	23
Tonight's low	13

Mainly sunny with cloudy periods in the morning, becoming variably cloudy in the afternoon. Humidex 24. Winds westerly 20km/h becoming 25km/h.

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NORTH AMERICAN WEATHER SYSTEMS

TEMPERATURE CONVERSION

-25	-20	-15	-10	-5	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	°C
-13	-4	5	14	23	32	41	50	59	68	77	86	95	°F

Temperatures are given in degrees Celsius

ALMANAC

Today's Records	Max.	Min.	Precipitation		Cooling Degree days to 2 p.m.
2003	32.8	-	(to 2 p.m. yesterday measured in mm)		Yesterday
1979	-	7.4			0.3
Temperature			Yesterday	4.6	
Yesterday	21.1	15.5	Month to date	32.4	May 1 to date
Year ago today	27.1	16.4	Month normal	88	60.7
Normal this date	25.4	14.8	Today's normal	3.5	

UV INDEX

Low — Moderate — High — Extreme

EXTENDED WEATHER:

Tomorrow
Variable
High 24
Low 15

Tuesday
80% chance of rain
High 19
Low 15

Wednesday
40% chance of showers
High 23
Low 16

Thursday
Partly cloudy
High 25
Low 16

Sun & moon

Sunrise 5:12 a.m.	Moonrise 7:54 p.m.
Sunset 8:46 p.m.	Moonset 3:16 a.m.

Total daylight 15hrs., 34 min.

July 7 Full · July 15 · July 22 New · July 28

Regional synopses

Abitibi-Témiscamingue
High 19. Low near 12.
Variably cloudy

Laurentians
High 20. Low near 9.
Variably cloudy

Eastern Ontario
High 23. Low near 14.
Partly cloudy

Southern Ontario
High 25. Low near 14.
Sunny

Quebec City
High 16. Low near 11.
Showers

Eastern Townships
High 17. Low near 9.
Cloudy

Northern New England
High 22. Low near 13.
Partly cloudy

Gaspé
High 16. Low near 11.
Showers

Baie-Comeau
High 16. Low near 11.
Showers

The Weather Network 20 Years

Canada today		Max.	Min.
Iqaluit	Sunny	13	8
Yellowknife	Showers	16	8
Whitehorse	Sunny	22	9
Vancouver	PCloudy	22	15
Victoria	PCloudy	22	14
Edmonton	PCloudy	21	12
Calgary	Showers	19	11
Saskatoon	TShowers	22	11
Regina	Rain	20	9
Winnipeg	M.Sunny	23	11
Thunder Bay	Showers	22	10
Sudbury	Showers	22	11
Toronto	Sunny	25	14
Fredericton	Showers	20	15
Halifax	TStorms	21	16
Charlottetown	Showers	19	14
St. John's	Showers	16	10

United States today		Max.	Min.
Atlanta	TStorms	31	21
Boston	Sunny	26	16
Chicago	Sunny	28	17
Dallas	TStorms	30	22
Denver	TShowers	28	13
Las Vegas	Sunny	40	26
Los Angeles	PCloudy	21	16
New Orleans	PCloudy	35	26
New York	PCloudy	26	18
Phoenix	PCloudy	42	30
St. Louis	PCloudy	27	18
San Francisco	PCloudy	21	12
Washington	TStorms	23	18

World today		Max.	Min.
Amsterdam	PSunny	25	16
Ankara	PCloudy	29	14
Athens	PCloudy	36	23
Beijing	Cloudy	35	30
Berlin	Sunny	22	17
Dublin	PCloudy	19	13
Hong Kong	TShowers	32	28
Jerusalem	Sunny	32	23
Lisbon	Cloudy	24	19
London	Cloudy	25	17
Madrid	Sunny	33	18
Mexico City	TShowers	22	10
Moscow	Rain	14	8
Nairobi	PCloudy	23	11
New Delhi	Sunny	39	26
Paris	Showers	23	18
Rio de Janeiro	PCloudy	24	21
Rome	PCloudy	29	20
Stockholm	Cloudy	21	11
Sydney	PCloudy	15	9
Tokyo	PCloudy	26	22

Resorts today		Max.	Min.
Atlantic City	TStorms	25	17
Cape Cod	Sunny	26	16
Daytona B.	TShowers	31	23
Myrtle B.	TShowers	31	23
Niagara F.	M.Sunny	24	17
Old Orchard	PCloudy	24	13
Virginia B.	TStorms	26	22
W. Palm B.	TStorms	31	24

FINE TUNING CHRIS LACKNER

Rescue Me rescues you from boring TV

Tommy Gavin, a substance abusing, violent, sarcastic, egotistical and misanthropic New York firefighter, is hands down the most entertaining character on television right now. In the hands of Denis Leary, who also writes and produces **Rescue Me (Showcase – 10 p.m.),** Gavin is impossible not to despise one moment, and easy to admire the next. His character's story arc on Season Five – probably the series' best – is a clear path to self-destruction, but with a lot of great one-liners, sexual escapades and rants along the ill-fated journey. All that makes Rescue Me the most daring, original fare on TV at the moment. Rescue yourself from mediocre TV, and catch the current 26-episode season before the flames go out.

■ See Matt Damon run. See Matt Damon jump. See Matt Damon kick butt in **The Bourne Supremacy (CTV – 9 p.m.),** the action-packed sequel to The Bourne Identity.

■ For tennis fans, NBC and Global have men's finals at **Wimbledon** beginning at 9 this morning.

CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

The Gazette
montrealgazette.com
You could WIN ONE of FIVE
Videotron Just For Laughs Gala Packages

2 winners to see WHOOPI GOLDBERG July 24 at 10 pm
2 winners to see JIM GAFFIGAN July 25 at 10 pm
1 winner to see MARTIN SHORT July 25 at 7 pm

Each package includes four tickets.
All performances at St-Denis Theatre.

Play daily for more chances to win!
To enter, visit montrealgazette.com/justforlaughs
Contest runs July 4 to 12, 2009

No purchase necessary. Limit 1 entry per household or email address per day. Prizes consist of five Videotron Gala packages (4 tickets per package). Approximate total value of tickets is $1,000. Must be Canadian resident who is the age of the majority or older at time of entry. Contest runs from July 4 to July 12, 2009. Mathematical skill testing question must be answered correctly. Odds of being selected depend on # of eligible entries received. For full set of Contest rules, visit www.montrealgazette.com/justforlaughs or mail request to The Gazette, 1010 Sainte-Catherine St. W., Montreal, Quebec, H3B 5L1. Att: Just For Laughs Contest.

VIDEOTRON presents Just for Laughs July 16 – 26

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